

NORTH MISSION ASSOCIATION, 3004 16TH ST.
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MARCH 1988



MISSION CRIME STILL AT ALL TIME HIGH

CRIME STORY

- by Brian Doohan

Crime in the North Mission continued on the upswing, well ahead of 1986 figures and crimes in other parts of San Francisco. But while drugs and shootings fill the headlines of the daily media, police statistics showed that the most significant increase was that in stolen cars.

Police precinct 414 around 16th and Mission (see map) again led the Mission in crime and registered a whopping jump of 579 reported incidents. Even so, it slipped from third to fourth place among over 200 citywide precinct. The two blocks between Market, Mission, Fourth and Sixth Streets remained the highest crime area of the City, followed by two precincts in the inner Tenderloin.

But Precinct 414 earned the North Mission one gold medal... auto thefts were up to 70, the highest in the City! 414 also ranked among the leaders in robberies, assaults and thefts.

Other high-crime North Mission precincts included 402 around the Safeway and Church/Market metro station (8th), 448 around S.F. General Hospital (16th), 422 next to 414 on Mission between 17th and 19th Streets (21st) and 454 around the 24th Street BART stop (25th). Despite heavy publicity, the Valencia Gardens precinct rated "only" 28th in San Francisco.

In addition to the auto theft reports, North Mission rape statistics could be a cause of concern. While incidents were down in Precinct 414 and in the Mission Street area from 21st to 23rd Street, the area around Duboce under the freeway jumped to fourth most dangerous and two precincts around the new 16th Street "theater district" which had only one rape in 1986 combined for eight in 1987.

North Mission Association executive board members Victor Miller and Vivian Azadian represented the neighborhood at a police-community meeting with Mission Station Captain Michael Brush.

Brush disclosed that last year's police bond issue means the construction of a new Mission Police Station. Possible locations have been cut to two: the bakery at Folsom and 16th across the street from the All Star Hotel which was shut down following a corporate takeover of Kilpatrick's Bread by Anheuser-Busch Inc. of Budweiser's Spuds McKenzic fame and the air rights above the "J" Street line where it cuts through Dolores Park.

The new station, according to Brush, will have locker rooms for male and female officers, new holding cells, community meeting facilities and self-contained parking. During a 1987 appearance before the North Mission Association, some residents blamed the parking problem around the existing Mission Station on the personal and official vehicles of the police.

Brush blamed the huge increase in auto theft on tougher sentencing procedures for Sce page 2

LIVE WORK OR LIVE WORSE?

- by Michael S. Bell

Your editor calls and tells you to cover a community hearing at Theatre Artaud, so you go. One more public chance to attempt an understanding of laws that are certainly going to have an effect on artists, but whether a benefit or not is still in debate. Dateline, February 16, 7 PM. Another meeting, another crowd, another highly educated bunch, four neckties in a room of eighty-five people, a panel of five cultural leaders trying to interpret and/or gain grass roots support for another proposed addition to the City's so-called Municipal Code (that bizarre amalgamation of words under which we live).

Supervisor Maher has proposed certain changes and additions to the Planning Department's understanding of Live/Work (translate as "live-in studio space") rules and regulation. Now, there is a problem here in Frisco about live-in studios. They are not strictly commercial (i.e. work) nor residential (i.e. live) spaces. This confuses everyone, even though grocery stores and dry cleaners and sheet metal shops and auto mechanics have been doing "Live/Work" occupancies since time beyond memory. But when it comes to artists (performing and visual alike) we seem to prefer that people not get a focus on us, so there is this unwarranted disarray in definitions as to what, or who, is and is not an artist.

Maher and the Planning Department want to create a Cultural Activities special use district, roughly from SOMA southward down the Eastern side of The City to Bayview/Hunters Point. In this district, certain kinds of live-in occupancy would be "allowed" and sanctioned by the grown-ups who have cut a deal which they think bankers and land owners will find attractive enough to forge onward in speculation which will, in turn, create more live-in spaces because the market will be manipulated and pockets lined in accordance with what artists, who are known to live below poverty lines, are able and "willing" to pay. Problem is, this district under proposal is mostly owned by the Port of Frisco already, or is very expensive land or is so filled with toxic/industrial dumps as to be mainly "work" and not much live for the likes of the renters. There was a nice official map of this section, but one knowledgeable advocate called the map "bullshit". Things are getting tough on the Live/Work scene folks!

Nathanson called for a united front, a friendly coalition of disparate voices planning to attend the hearing March 17th. He cited the issues called up on Maher's legislation as being focused on:

- 1. Who should Live/Work space be for? Artists? Fine vs. "Commercial" artists?
- 2. Amnesty for already existing illegal Live/Work occupancies.
- 3. Rent control vs. none since Live/Work spaces are both commercial and residential (Rick Judd of the City Attorney's office, also in attendance, clarified that Maher's legislation did not deal with rent control which comes under another department's jurisdiction).
 - 4. Closer ties between Planning and Building Departments at City Hall.
- 5. Toxic substances created by and around industrial activities normally associated with some studios in commercial zones.

There were pink cards for writing audience opinions on and white cards for writing see page 6

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| Pct. | 8 Reports | 8 Reports | Analysis |
|------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 402 | 797 | 736 | Slight crime increase matched overall Mission figures. Petty theft rate is persistently high, to the exasperation of Market Street businesses. |
| 403 | 921 | 682 | Valencia Projects precinct had above average crime increase, partly as a result of increased police pressure. Substantial rise in robberies, grand theft and auto theft. |
| 404 | 440 | 330 | 600% rape increase in this precinct, substantial increases in robbery and grand theft. A candidate for targeted action by police anti-rape enforcement? |
| 405 | 158 | 115 | Small but worrisome crime increase across the board. |
| 406 | 89 | 89 | No change in crime figures. |
| 412 | 352 | 289 | One of many precincts with substantial auto |
| | | | theft increase. Stolen cars doubled in 1987 over 1986. |
| | | 486 | Grand theft and auto theft led moderate overall crime increase. |
| 414 | 2173 | 1594 | Mission's worst crime area actually slipped from 3rd to 4th citywide, but achieved the status as the highest auto theft precinct in the city. Across-the-board increases in robbery, burglary, assault but rapes fell 50%. |
| 415 | 325 | 274 | Auto thefts more than doubled from 15 to 31. |
| 419 | 197 | 216 | Slight but welcome crime decrease. Robberies fell from 15 in 1986 to 3 in 1987. |
| 420 | 186 | 219 | Slight crime decrease for Dolores Park. |
| 421 | 312 | 297 | Slight crime increase lagged behind Mission average. |

422 1102 1066 large increase in assaults and burglaries

slightly in auto theft.

Street theatre district.

in most categories.

figures.

decrease.

112

319

442

443

254 219

240

overshadows overall stabilization of crime

prove troublesome to the newly emerging 16th

Crime rate, though rising, still is lower in

reports" (police shorthand for nuisance

calls like picking up drunks) led to overall

precinct. Like the poet says, "Don't ever ever ever ever park on Harrison Street.

income, lower-crime West Mission precinct.

dropped from 6 to 2, robberies from 34 to

24. A neighborhood that is doing the right

thing to bring down a still-high crime rate.

Standard crime increase across the board.

298 Another lower crime neighborhood where the

221 Mission's most improved precinct registered significant drop in burglaries and even fell

157 110 Mission's other high rape precinct could

the Mission's westernmost precincts.

711 817 Auto thefts up but decrease in "other

190 163 Auto theft doubled in otherwise low-crime

110 105 Residential burglaries tripled in higher-

252 283 Rapes up, burglaries and assaults down.

684 845 Mission Station's success story.

263 Average precinct with slight crime increases

CRIME

continued from page I

convicted burglars. "Now, the addict population finds the crime of auto theft carries lesser penalties and is easier to get away with.

He and Officer Larry Ratti announced a new crackdown which will get the homeless and the hookers off the streets and into jail. According to the police, abandoned vehicles with expired registration and more than five tickets on police computers will be towed away, even if people are sleeping inside. And Brush revealed that prostitutes will now be charged for being under the influences of drugs and alcohol rather than for solicitation because penalties for being under the influence are harder (minimum 60 day jail terms) and convictions are easier to obtain.

But the police still face a manpower shortage, which will likely be magnified by the budget deficit. While the 120-officer staff is still short by five cops, Brush anticipated that "there will be no more new hires and we will lose even more do to attrition."

Brush stated that the crime problems in the Mission are mostly attributable to former Mayor Feinstein's repeated police sweeps of the Tenderloin. The in-migration of criminals poses a dilemma for Mission residents. On the one hand it is a bald fact of life that higher crime rates are one of the few things holding down housing costs; on the other, a continuing relocation of criminals from the Tenderloin and... with plans to gentrify Sixth Street and construct luxury apartments near the Strand Theater on Eighth and Market... South of Market may have the effect of causing homeowning families and long-time residents to sell out to absentee speculators.

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, also the meeting, stated that BART police were not doing their fair share to help in the fight against crime in Precinct 414. Last year, merchants told the News that thieves and muggers find it easy to use the BART staircases to make their escapes.

"BART has no plan or idea about how to fight crime," Gonzalez charged. "BART police take no responsibility for the plazas."

On a more optimistic note, Brush declared that the police have been made "agents" of the Housing Authority, which designation gives them the authority to make misdemeanor trespassing arrests at the Army/Folsom and Valencia Gardens projects. Thus, the captain believes, will help to discourage the crack dealers and buyers who have been blamed for the recent increase in violence in and near the projects.



LOOKING FOR A JOB

Mission Hiring Hall

San Francisco Residents only 2017 Mission Street (Near 16th) 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday **Excellent Opportunities!**

No Fee Required Must have previous work experience and be unemployed

Now Recruiting for Nontraditional Jobs for Women



burglary rate fell by more than half. 291 280 Auto theft nearly doubled, other figures generally stable.



Dear North Mission News,

I have perused your February issue with great interest and not a little pleasure. The article on VACANCY DECONTROL was splendidly written and a delight to read. Mr. Badd has, I'm afraid, become a habit... yes, I admit it! I haven't the foggiest notion of what he's talking about, does he? (I hope not!) Three cheers for Mr. Baddness, long may his doberman dung!

However, I wish to castigate and bring to light the deecitful poseurs and frauds dba in an advert, in NMA, as the IWW Union! These frauds are so paraneid they can't list a phone number and so much hot air that they will not answer multiple written requests for representation! Hell, even the Klan, Commies and Nazis are contactable, what's these blighters' problem? I denounce them as warmed over Commies posing as Wohblies, they have no manners!

Pursuant to the article on alternatives for battered and abused women, the noble sentiments, good deeds and praise heaped upon this group of functionaries AKA: Woman Inc. is premature, misplaced and erroneous. They are frauds and cowards! They won't and didn't do a dainn thing to counter abuse against women, not even get off their fat arses to write a letter of protest!

For example: this past December I was the object of repeated terrorism by a gang of punks who laid in wait until I returned to quarters then let loose a barrage of stones. When I got inside, the stoning continued and all my windows were broken. This went on several times. I've had my shop ransacked, a faucet snapped off, had stones, bottles, flares, cans and insults hurled at me from concealed assailants and from moving vehicles over a four year period. The punks are known to me and to the police. Forsooth, the police encourage and certainly sympathize with these misercants. To ask them for help is tantamount to having Ed Meese in charge of the Iranseam investigation - ludicrous!

I asked this outfit ADVOCACY for assistance, letters of protest to the Police Chief and Mayor denouncing this repeated and escalated violence against a lone lesbian.

These wastrols demured, as did every other bleeding-heart quasi-pseudo "women's help advocacy group"! Being pelted by a barrage of stones is something I define as ABUSE. This bunch of functionaries are ostensibly organized and incorporated to "make abuse nonexistent"! OK ladies, how about it? I denounce you as mere functionaries and frauds and I say to hell with you.

I've done my best to get assistance to get the terror to stop peacefully. Since it has not been forthcoming, I am forced to resort to vigilantism and settle the score with a bullet or molotov cocktail or both.

Wishing you well, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Sasikala Devi Sasi

Dear North Mission News,

We would like to thank you for all your support for our December benefit at the Firchouse 7. The music was excellent and the club was packed. It was a big success! Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for earing.

Sincerely,

Shellie Krick, Women and Children Against Homelessness

To the Editor,

I was disappointed and surprised to read your article "Motorcycles & Noise = Rent Strike" in the January issue of the North Mission News. The article misrepresents the situation and conditions here at 94 Duboce. I hope to clarify this.

There are currently eighteen tenants residing at 94 Duboce, three of whom have placed their rents in escrow, angry over the bar's transformation to a "punk, skinhead biker bar". ZEITGEIST attracts a broad variety of patrons, many of whom are motorcycle enthusiasts, most of whom are productive, responsible members of society. The atmosphere of the bar is light hearted and amiable. The spectrum of music could not be broader and generally kept to a volume conducive to conversation. The notion that the bar poses some threat to the tenants "by patrons who rev up their motorcycles at the 2 AM closing time and toss bottles into the street and, in some eases, through their windows" is absurd. This occurrence has never arisen and could never arise. Not only is it uncharacteristic, no bottles or containers leave the premises.

A sign posted on the front of the bar prominently reads "Do not park on sidewalk". The gas station across the street is ample, well-lit parking after 8 PM. The doorman asks all patrons to leave quietly on their way out of the bar.

The circumstances surrounding the resignation of the previous hotel manager are known to all the tenants, the details of which need not be mentioned here. What should be stated is that my motives for stepping into this post are not as covert as has been implied, "We think he wants to raise the rents, kick us out and put his biker friends in". Indeed, surely it is in my own best interests to ensure that this hotel be well run and maintained. It is also necessary that a good level of communication exists between the hotel and the bar below, that all concerned parties are content with the situation.

That the "showers are broken and there are no locks on some of the doors" is an exaggeration. There are two showers in the hotel (as required), both in fine working order, although work being done to replace siding on an exterior wall rendered one shower partially exposed and somewhat uncomfortable. The period was brief and the situation was quickly remedied. All doors to all rooms have locks.

The rent strike began on the day I became resident manager. The valid demands of these three disgruntled tenants have complied with. The exploitation of any means to blow this situation out of proportion utilized (this article, unwarranted complaints at a community meeting, banners from hotel windows, defacing the sidewalk, anonymous complaints to police) and to what end? Perhaps my motives should not be the only ones questioned.

The "rent strike" continues.

THE YORK THEATER

2789 24th ST. (BTW. BRYANT & POTRERO) S.F. 🛮 🕿 282-0316

MARCH 9-15: NORTH AMERICAN THEATRICAL PREMIÈRE:

THE RECORD
a film by Daniel Helfer (1985)
starring Uwe Ochsenknecht

nightly at 7:30, 9:15 with weekend matinees at 1:30, 3:15, 5:00

Oir, Ooniel Helfer W. Germany 1984

This is Germony's onswer to <u>Stranger than Paradise</u>, made that some year. It is "underground" in feeling, subversive in content, and inventive in style. It is a story of people not unlike ourselves, whose lives are completely dominated by the media. And we watch their servitude to media images reach its own logical and harrific conclusion.

Use Ochsenknecht -- known for starring roles in Men... and Das Boot -- plays Rica, who dreams with his friend Banona of broadcasting from his own pirote TV station. Broke and despondent, Rica devises a plan to finance his goal: he'll do the only thing he's really good at: watching TV. He'll set the Guinness World Record for TV-watching, and cash in an the publicity. We now watch Rica cosually attempt to take in 200 hours of the tube; the film, which began with a funky lightheortedness, now grows more harrowing as Rica and his television fight for the control of his mind.

fight for the control of his mind.

There's definitely a message, and it hits home, but The Record is no Hallywood morality play. Rico, our antihera, and his friends are last hipsters, and the film spoofs them, pop culture, and the very art of image-making itself (a great film-within-the-film is a documentary on the banana, shot at the lacol fruit stand). Meanwhile, the black-and-white cinematography is as beautiful and ambitious as the content, ranging from spare, almost documentary-style footage to highly charged and surrealistic pussages at the climax. This is a psychedelic movie with teeth, and we are hosting its flat theatrical run on this entire continent. (85m)



ROBERTA ACHTENBERG



COMES ON STRONG

- by Bob Weisblatt

Roberta Achtenberg, stepping in where others fear to tread, is running to replace Art Agnos as the representative of the 16th Assembly District. While other San Franciscans considered, then rejected, a race that challenges the magic of the Burton name, Achtenberg was forming a coalition and lining up support for the race. With John Burton clinging to his famous name and claiming that he and Achtenberg have the same views on the issues, Achtenberg is faced with two problems; getting her name recognized by voters in the 16th District and establishing her differences with Burton.

Roberta Achtenberg, 37, is a civil rights lawyer, Directing Attorney of the Lesbian Rights Project of San Francisco and was co-chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. Some students in the North Mission may remember her as a faculty member of New College and Dean of the Law School.

WHY DID YOU GET INTO THE RACE?

First, I needed to be convinced that the race was winnable. I talked with campaign experts and those who knew the demographics that the race was winnable. The numbers are right in the I6th district for a progressive to win. Also, as other prospective candidates like Doris Ward dropped out and left the field clear for John Burton, I made the determination to go forward with my campaign when no one else would. Ideologically, I feel that I am part of the ascending order. Art did a decent job in Sacramento, especially concerning anti-discrimination (for women, gays, lesbians, etc.). I am not beholden to paid special interests.

I met with Willie Brown when I was considering the race, but even if you tell him that you will be with him 99 out of 100 times, that is not enough. Willie wants total allegiance and I fear that he is more concerned with keeping the speakership than with anything else. John will be so busy helping Willie preserve his speakership that he'll be hamstrung when it comes to helping his district.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAIN ISSUES THAT YOU FEEL YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE WHEN YOU ARE IN THE LEGISLATURE?

AIDS and the delivery of health services. Preventive education for all populations as well as anti-discrimination clauses in AIDS bills are very important.

John says he has the experience to deal with the legislature but I am the one with the experience in dealing with the issues of the 80's and 90's. AIDS, women in the workforce, the feminization of poverty, childcare (or the lack of it), woman-headed households and their poverty as a manifestation of discrimination on the job. The impact of these two forces on children. Pregnancy discrimination, funding of public schools, the environment. I have been involved with dealing with these and other problems for years.

John, on the other hand, has disabled himself from dealing in the public interest by refusing to reveal his clients. If another Diablo Canyon-type issue arose how could he make a decision in the public interest when he has PG&E as a client?

LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN THIS COUNTRY SEEM TO BE PARALYZED, IN-CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH COMPLEX ISSUES. THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE'S INABILITY TO DEAL WITH A WHOLE HOST OF COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES HAS LED TO AN EVER-SPIRALING NUMBER OF INITIATIVES. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DEAL WITH THIS LACK OF DEFINITIVE ACTION? SECONDLY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE INITIATIVE PROCESS NEEDS TO BE REFORMED?

First I know that, to get things done, I have to build up political capital and that takes time. However, even being a lone voice on the left can effect the debate on an issue by dragging the considerations of the solutions left-ward. This is similar to what Jesse Jackson has done, independent of the issue of his electability. Jesse has forced the mainstream politicians to consider his viewpoint and, in doing so, the debate has moved towards a more progressive focus.

I think that, as a sitting assemblyperson, I can get the media attention that is so difficult to secure now. And that attention would pull the discussion of the issues left-ward.

I also feel that I can establish cooperative relationships with other legislators, even though I am what you might call a truth-teller. I tell the truth in a low, but persistent voice, so I don't think I will become like some of the liberals in the legislature who make too many concessions.

As for initiatives you have the situation with Larouche II. More time and money, another million dollars must be spent defeating this initiative. I really am not an expert in the reform of the initiative process.

When I was setting up my campaign I was astonished to discover that there were no campaign limits, none at all. I was so surprised that I checked with my legal advisor who was helping me to set things up. He affirmed that this was the case. This is immoral. There are two initiatives out there to limit campaign spending and contributions... one from Common Cause and one from State Sen. Quentin Kopp. Something must be done.

IF YOU GET ELECTED, YOU WILL PROBABLY BE IN THE LEGISLATURE WHEN REAPPORTIONMENT COMES UP IN 1990. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE WAY DISTRICTS WERE DRAWN THE LAST TIME?

The arrogance of the last reapportionment is demonstrated by what happened to Chinese-Americans above all, though the complaints of Gays and Lesbians are also righteous. Creating safe seats is a problem - once someone gets in are they still responsive to change? Dan Boatwright is an example of this. Safe seats create entrenched mediocrity.

However, there is no chance to insulate the process from politics. Suggestions that some "non-partisan" panel of judges could decide the district lines is a phony proposal. Judges get their seats on the bench oftentimes by currying political favor.

DO YOU THINK THE STATE LEGISLATURE COULD FORCE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE MYRIAD TRANSIT AUTHORITIES IN THE BAY AREA, AND SHOULD THEY?

Yes, the Legislature could force the various districts to merge into one Bay Arca transit district, but the problem is more one of leadership than lack of consolidation. Moreover, all those transit districts would exercise their lobbying muscle in Sacramento. In any consolidation, people would lose power and money. What we need is more coordination.

WITH VARIOUS STUDIES PREDICTING SOMETHING APPROACHING GRIDLOCK FROM SAN DIEGO TO THE GOLDEN GATE, WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE? BUILD MORE HIGHWAYS? MORE TRANSIT?

We should maintain the existing highways, but mass transit has to happen environmentally and logically. I like to drive also, but driving becomes a socially irresponsible act at some point. Disincentives are needed to get people to leave their cars and incentives to use more mass transit. We've waited too long to make transportation a priority. If we decided today that the CAL Train extension into downtown San Francisco was the thing to do, it wouldn't be ready for 20 years. Is there time for this kind of solution.

Development needs to pay a greater share of the costs they create. We need a statewide law to get developers throughout the state to pay more for the transportation burdens they increase - like San Francisco's MUNI charge. The charge should be low enough so as not to be an impediment to development, but high enough to offset some of the costs.





SECRET HONOR



- by Nick Homsfelt

Every now and then "the Chief" calls me up to give me a lead on an amusing story or to badger me into interviewing someone who is stirring up local color; once-in-a-while I end up grateful to him because I've had the chance to meet someone special, someone I genuinely like. Bob Lovell turned out to be one of those people.

About a month ago in the Pink Section of the Sunday ExCornicle, Hal Gelb reviewed "Secret Honor, The Last Testament of Richard M. Nixon: A Political Myth", a play by Donald Freed and Arnold M. Stone, directed by Bob Lovell, starring Robert Kowollik and running at the One Act Theater on Mason Street through March 13. Mr. Gelb described the play as a fictional, sympathetic portrait of Nixon as the "Deep Throat", the mastermind of his own downfall. He also mentioned this portrayal as unsettling to "liberals".

When "the Chief" called and told me I should interview Bob Lovell, the director of "Secret Honor", I was less than thrilled but felt I'd better go see the play as part of my artistic duty. All I can say is Hal Gelb and I don't agree. Robert Kowollik's very human Nixon flailing about in a self-made hell of accumulated choices had me wide eyed for an hour and a half, but hardly sympathetic. After all, I do remember the Checkers Speech. "Secret Honor" is one impressive, high energy performance you would be wise to catch before Election '88 gets into full swing.

A couple of days after seeing the play I caught up with Bob Lovell and we talked: NH:First of all, thank you for the job you did on "Secret Honor", I had a great time, I'll be coming down to see it again before it closes. BL:Thanks, I'm glad you liked it.

NH:After reading the Pink Section article I didn't know what to expect but I sure didn't see any sympathetic light on Richard Nixon.

BL:No, it's not meant to be sympathetic, you might feel empathetic for this guy ranting and raving over his life, but no one is going to be sympathetic about the position he has gotten himself into. I wasn't really happy with the Pink Section piece, I think the guy read the play and laid on a lot of his own political beliefs.

NH:Wcll, I found myself not thinking about Nixon, I kept thinking "Of course the next logical step was Reagan."

BL:Right, it's not about dogma, indictments or pardons, it's about the human condition, specifically the American condition where power and money dictate the values. Power and money are the values! Nixon is portrayed as an Everyman with the American obsession for winning, succeeding to the ultimate American dream at any cost. We condemn men like Nixon and scorn the immorality of money, but we all still strive for all the money we can get. On some level, we all have to face these conflicts and accept responsibility.

NH:Right now my conflict is that I really enjoyed the play and could go on talking about it for a couple of pages but I'm supposed to be interviewing you about you. You're a Mission resident, right?

BL:Yes, I've been in San Francisco for four years. I moved to the Mission two years ago. The Mission is real. I enjoy the diversity of the culture and I love the food here.

NH: Where are you from originally?

BL:1 grew up in Syracuse, New York, then I attended the University of Vermont and got

my M.F.A. in directing from Rutgers in New Jersey. After college all my buddies were going to New York to work in theater but I wanted something else so I moved out here.

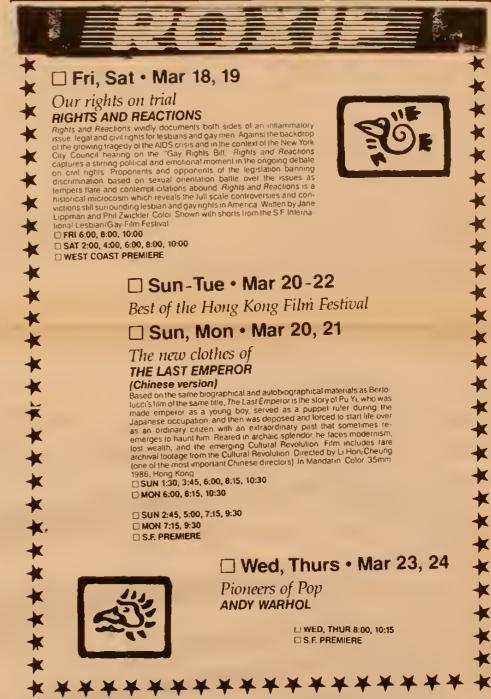
NH: You must be aware of the theater renaissance in the Mission, have you done any directing here in the neighborhood?

BL:1'm certainly aware of theater in the Mission but, after nine years of college and four years in San Francisco, "Secret Honor" is my first professional directing job outside of Rutgers. It's not easy to get started. An actor can just come in and audition for a part but a director has to have some pieces performed in order to get other jobs. To keep body and soul together I have been working full time at the One Act as Business Manager and on a few productions as Stage Manager. I could probably earn more money working at Denny's but the point is to be in theater.

NH: You mean that dedicated persistence that finally pays off?

BL:Maybe that sounds corny but I believe theater changes society on all levels, no matter where it is performed. A piece like "Secret Honor" changes people's views socially, emotionally, politically, any number of ways. I like being a part of that.







LIVE-WORK continued from page 1

one's questions on. These went up front to the panel. The panel tried to handle the pile of cards. Ms. Montana took the cards home with her since the questions/opinions are evidence of public feelings about the proposed laws. Twice during the evening the assembly was asked for a show of hands as to who would be willing to restrict the proposed special use district just to "Fine" arts and who would be willing to allow "Commercial" arts (i.e. graphics, photographers, architects etc.). The vote, both times, was 50/50. Not exactly what one could call a clear mandate for the proposal. Most of the ambivalence is the result of how the legislation defines an artist.

On page one of the fifty, an artist is defined as "... dance, music, dramatic arts, film, video, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, jewelry and other visual, performance and sound arts." This is a masterpiece of bureaucratic equivocation, unparalleled in recent memory. Let us now have a history lesson. Of all the list which is (I swear before the almighty maker) part of the proposed legislation:

a. Only Dance, Music, Painting and Sculpture are actually and formally any kind of "art" whether Fine or otherwise.

b. The remainder of items listed are actually media within one or more of the traditionally recognized arts.

c. Though constant separation was made at the meeting between "Fine" and "Applied" (people usually try to degrade Applied Art by calling it "Commercial") nobody was able to come up with an equitable way either to identify who was which or by what American way sort of method such determinations should be made or by whom (certainly not the SF Arts Commission please!).

Now this is important, my children, because the Planning Department will, so they have said a few times in public, be depending on we, the arts community, to be the "Art Police". That is, supposing we got this special district for our live-in spaces, then it would be up to us to complain to Planning (or maybe the SFPD?) that a closet computer programmer had set up shop in a live-in studio intended purely for the cleansed and sanctified artiste. It sucks!

Anyhow, Maher, along with some other people, has proposed some words for the Municipal Code (i.e. that body of rules which prevents us from spitting in certain places and so forth) which Susana Montana of the Planning Department is charged with interpreting and gathering a plebecite upon. These words are intended to help artists (though we do not yet have a basic definition of what an "artist" is) find and keep their live-in studios. It is a noble effort. Opposing live-in studios in Frisco is something like being against abortion if you are a member of NOW.

So, Mr. Maher has given us fifty pages of legal size language to understand. This fifty pages is coming to a hearing March 17, approximately 3 PM in Room 282 of City Hall. We artist types are being implored to attend and give unified voice to our support fo the measure. But, hold it a second! Hold on! Do we know what the legislation is? Do we know who it will really help and hurt? Do we know what deals have been cut behind the scenes? Do we know who is being shoved out as point guard to absorb the flack for what may actually be faulty and truly injurious legislation? Do we know what all those technical words actually mean? Are we talking the same language over at City Hall, or are we just too eager for help to know the truth.

I am a writer, my job is to help us understand, to send out the word that something is about to happen which people need to comprehend and, maybe, even ignore. Pick up a copy of the proposed wordage for yourself, see if you can understand it. And, even if you cannot, please think of attending this hearing and giving voice to your views. Anyway, back to the public meeting at Theater Artaud.

Jeff Nathanson (Artists' Equity) moderated a panel consisting of Susana Montana (Planning Department and long time soldier for artists), Margie O'Driscoll (ArtHouse honcho and artist real estate buzz saw), Mike Berline (SEARS building, etc. etc., developer and Live/Work activist since Moses was bom), and Joshua Simon (Project Artaud Building Coes diplomat and smoother- outer guy) faced the aforementioned crowd of cultural ruffians and guardians including the likes of Alma Robinson, Jack Davis, Steve Camber (all of California Lawyers for the Arts), Maureen Martin, Katherine Cook, Michelle Boleyn, Pepe Ozan, Martha Senger and Leah Forbes (SF Arts Commission) among a fair sized horde of eyes and ears who got there to see and hear.

Ms. Montana began with a very technical and, through no fault of her own, totally incomprehensible overview of the goals that the Planning Department has for this legislation. The word "jargon" was invented to cover what this fine person was compelled to state for the public record. Basically, they want a way to bring artists back to Frisco (though some of us do not really belive there is a need for this since not that many artists actually are leaving or not being replaced), to preserve cultural diversity in Frisco (as if that could be legislated), to manipulate the real estate market through codes and zoning changes/enhancements which would establish standards for safe and affordable artist housing (as if legislation could alter the course of speculation in real estate), and to find a way for conversion of existing spaces in Frisco to be done economically from the artist's point of view.

So what does it come down to anyway? We know that legal live-in studios are both hard to find and come in around \$1,000 - \$1,200 per month. Illegal live-ins go for as little as \$250, as long as everybody shuts their face and protects each other.

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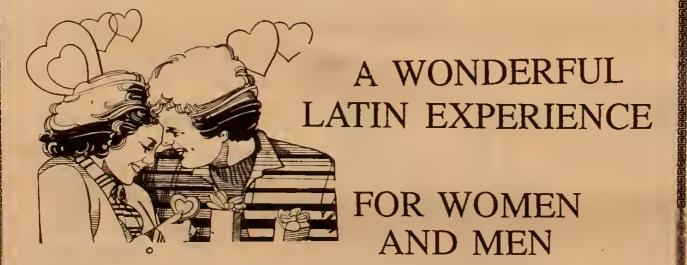
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- by William Edward Summers

EL OSO: ELEGANCE AND EXCELLENCE

A few months ago, while looking for a new place to have dinner in the Mission, we came across an interesting looking place on Valencia. At the time it was still under construction but now it has been open for about four weeks.

mural of a bear with the words "El Oso". This is the building which houses El Oso, the new Spanish restaurant created by Al Bries.

Upon entering El Oso, one's eyes are instantly drawn to the enormous antique mahogany bar, an increasingly rare sight in San Francisco as these magnificent creations are purchased and taken to other cities. This particular bar was hand carved in Germany terior design firm.) and shipped around the Horn in the early days of San Francisco. The bar area is a spa-

cious and comfortable place to visit even without dinner plans.

The layout of the restaurant and bar is such that there is no feeling of being cramped for space. It would be a very good location for a business lunch or dinner in the more relaxed Mission District mode. On our visit, which was in mid afternoon, the dining room was half filled, primarily with Mission District and Noe Valley businesspeople.

I haven't been to El Oso in the evening yet but I know that the dining room would look pleasant with subdued lighting or perhaps candlelight. The interior design is by Al Bries and they were still putting on the finishing touches at the time of our visit.

The menu is five pages long and includes hot and cold tapas, seafood and a diverse selection of Northern Spanish dishes. The wine selection ranges from vin ordinaire to a rare 1948 Chateau Lafite which is surprising.

In our group, one member had the seafood combination which included beautiful green shelled New Zealand oysters. I had a sample and it tasted wonderful. It came with a tomato and onion salad and rice mixed with nuts and spices, all of which was very good. The other member of our party had filet mignon which was large and came prepared exactly as ordered. I had the special which included a selection of Spanish sausages and a seafood croquette, along with a green salad.

Also on the menu were several paella choices, all of which sounded absolutely excellent. Unfortunately, it requires a minimum of 30 minutes for chef Don Miguel to prepare this wonderful seafood stew so, on this visit, there wasn't time.

At Bries is, himself, quite a personality. In the past, he has recorded a number of albums with internationally recognized Latin musicians and even one album with American country-western luminary Johnny Cash. He has had much experience with the restaurant business which is evident in the smooth operation of El Oso.

It has been said that 90 days should be allowed after a restaurant's opening before Anyone who has travelled south on Valencia past 22nd Street has seen the large any critical review. Even though our visit was only four weeks after the doors were opened, it seems that El Oso is off to a good start. In my opinion, this is an excellent location for both business and personal dining.

(William Edward Summers is principal of a San Francisco based building and in-

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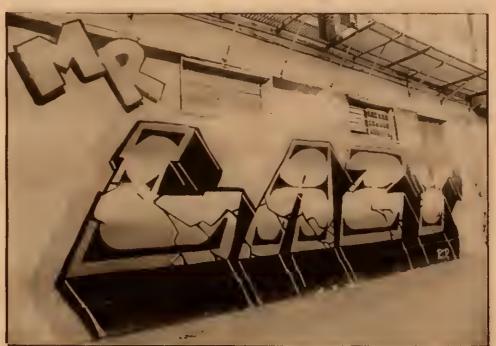


Photo by Fuminori Sato

The mural at 23rd and Mission Street on the side of "That's It" was done for Roger (Roy) Jose Ruiz. "Roy", a native Mission resident, was killed in an automobile accident Jan. 8, 1988. He was 22 years old.

A week after he was killed, five of Roy's friends including his brother spent two days completing the mural, which they dedicated to Roy's 5 year old daughter Veronica.

Roy referred to himself as Mr. Lazy, a nickname which quickly caught on with his friends as it suited his laid-back style. He was a graduate of John Adams Community College. He worked as a mail handler at the postal facility in Hunter's Point and liked to draw in his spare time. Roy was a PFC in the Army Reserve and had been in the 490th Signal Co. as a multichannel radio operator since 1984.

This mural was done as a tribute for his friends and family to see. All who knew Roy will never forget him!

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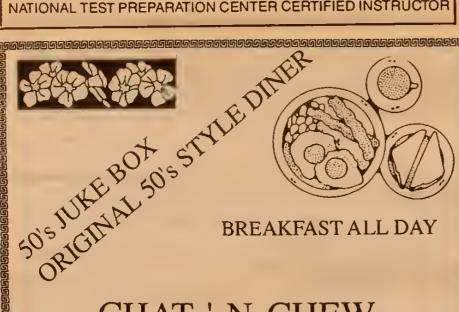
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

by David Spero



Photo by Fuminori Sato

The obvious - construction work at the 16th and Valencia Pit has been halted for over a month now. It looks rather odd and ugly. In one corner, a little shack that looks like a guard tower in a P.O.W. camp. On the floor of the Pit, square holes where, perhaps, the archaeological "digs" were made. The reason for the holdup is a screwup in the paperwork between Mission Housing Development Corporation and the Federal government, which is supplying a good chunk of the funds for the housing project.

Roberta Achtenberg continues to pick up support in her race for the 16th District Assembly seat. The environmentalist group San Francisco Tomorrow and the San Francisco Tenants' Union Legislative Committee have endorsed Roberta for the April 12th special election. Corporate lobbyist John Burton is relying on the Burton name and a large bankroll in his effort to take the Assembly seat.

Much ado in the afternoon rag about the Mission cultural arts scene. Fellows, where ya been? Yeah, the Mission has it all, yeah there is never enough financial support for arts groups. But never do the papers (including this paper, Mr. Editor-in-Chief) cover the Mission's vibrant music scene. Musicians don't have advocates at foundations, but then again, that would contradict what most of the local bands are all about.

Punk, glam, glitter, hardcore, industrial, psychedelic, psychotic - these words are overused. Let's just say: in one weekend in February you could see Bomb and Verbal Abuse at the Chatterbox for real cheap and then go to a free show on Sunday in back of Canned Foods and see Housecoat Project amidst old tires, cement, happy dogs running in and out of delirious people enjoying a sunny day.

Bomb is God, the band to drive this correspondent to ecstasy. They're lovey dovey, thrashy, oving and kind of dark at the same time. Bomb guitarist Jay Crawford also plays in Housecoat Project and bartends sometimes at Firehouse 7. He lives in the North Mission... like a lot of the members of Bomb, the Bedlam Rovers, Housecoat Project, Frightwig, MDC, Verbal Abuse, Hippy Bitch and others.

Speaking of punk rock, Verbal Abuse rocked the Chatterbox. Joey is back with the band, joining Scotty, Dave and the rest. The Guerrero Street Crew lives on. Bomb's lead singer is Michael Dean. One of the Bedlam Rovers' singers is also named Mike. They're both short guys, real smart and charged up. They glow in the dark. The Bedlam Rovers play Shamrock-Celtic rock with mandolin, flute and lots of dancing. Most of the band members are from Washington D.C. - the nation's most hideous metropolitan area. Somehow these guys and gals escaped with their sensitivity intact. Catch them St. Patrick's Day... after you've hit the Dovre Club and McCarthy's, go to the S.F. Music Works on Market and dance to the Irish sound of the Bedlam Rovers. Next month, the 12 year old

To Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors: Don't attempt to balance the budget on the backs of MUNI riders. If you believe in a transit first policy, No Fare Increase!!! And thanks to Harry Britt and Richard Hongisto for voting against the ripoff PG&E





THE WEARIN OF THE GREEN (and THE RED, and THE WHITE)

"Oh, Paddy dear and did you hear the news that's goin round? The shamrock is forbidden by law to grow on Irish ground. It's the most distressful hap'nin that this country's ever seen. Oh, they're hangin' men and women, for the wearin of the green!"

Lines from an old Irish ballad from the revolution, that has yet to see an end, on the "ald sod". Many of those who sang that song ran for their lives after being heard singing about the "tragedies", and ended up in San Francisco's Mission district.

In those days, the Mission became mostly Irish, with a strong sprinkling of Italians, who felt the pinch of being displaced. Irish and Italian children attending the same schools were often found fighting each other, by an Irish cop who would find them where they were not supposed to be, throwing rocks and cans, shouting "Go back to where you came from (potato head) or (you ugly wop). They were feeling the pinch of being displaced in a neighborhood that hadn't even given them time to get settled before the next wave of immigrants hit "their street".

According to Captain Brush of Mission Police Station, there will be 400,000 (?!!) people arriving to attend Carnaval celebrations on June 19th. But he also predicted that "within ten years, the Latin American community will be displaced by the Oriental population". Looking back on the past history of this neighborhood, it seems to be the norm to find continual displacement going on. But I'd say that the Latin American population is giving it a good run for the territory, and that this neighborhood will be living with a predominantly Spanish language flavor for some time to come.

Oh yes, the location for the Cineo de Mayo and Carnaval street fair celebrations this year has been changed to between 16th and 21st Streets on Harrison, as confirmed by Roberto Hernandez, President of MECA.

My Chinese baker speaks more Spanish than English. Ninety per cent of his eustomers speak only Spanish. I wonder how the Irish felt when they came to Mission Street looking for a new life in America, land of the heathen English tongue, and found that many of their neighbors spoke only Italian. Then they had to face the fact that if little "Kathleen" or "Thomas" were to get an education, they would have to attend school with all the children of these other "heathen" races,

They did all attend classes together and, in the course of things, brought each other home to their parents, saying they were in love and wanted to be married. Not only did these good Irish people have to face having sort of "half-breed" grandchildren, but the person that little Kathleen or Thomas wanted to marry wasn't even Catholie! "Saints preserve us!" cried many a Mrs. O'Grady, "we're all goin' to the devil!" But time softened these things, and now parents are so many generations into AMERICA that the pain felt by their grandparents because of a certain loss of the pure culture is only a quaint memory. That is, until they decide to move to the Mission district in order to achieve a lower rent and live in a "colorful" neighborhood, after moving ten years ago from somewhere in the Midwest, only to find their children becoming friends with "orientals" and "latinos". "God forbid!"





I say hoorah! for the Mission and America. In the face of nearly impossible odds, the people survive. Out of their own wish for a better life, a new race of people is inevitably being ereated. Another two hundred years will see a very different kind of nationality. A combination of all the races of the world, in one child. We can holler about one race and another coming into our lives, but the little children, not yet stained by hatred for something different than themselves, will find their friends in school to be good playmates. And hopefully, one day as grown people, they will walk into their parents' living room, hand in hand with the person they love, and no one will be able to protest about different race or religion, because they will be a nationality based on ALL the races of the world. So goes America. Happy Saint Patrick's Day! "I'll drink to that!" PAZ.





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- by Betsy Randolph



MIDGE SANTORA

PROFILE

When Midge Santora opened her own building maintenance supplies store in 1984, she had twenty years of experience in the trade, but no credit reference. The experience came from working with her husband Sam Santora at Santora Supply, first on 18th and Eureka, then later on Valencia Street. The business was in his name. When the Santoras divorced in 1984, Midge went right on working -- this time, for herself.

She found a space to rent at 33 Bartlett Street and started Santora Sales. The store carries a variety of cleaning products and equipment, and caters mainly to janitors and apartment and office maintenance services. Clients come from all over the Bay Area, although the Santoras hope to increase their presence and business in the more immediate neighborhood.

The bookkeeper, an office person and many clients followed Midge to her new store after the '84 divorce and business split. But confusion over the two Santora stores and technically "starting from scratch" with the credit reference posed initial problems. "Nobody expected us to last," recalls Michelle Santora, who has been working for the family business for some 12 years. But combined experience, lots of help from friends and a great deal of faith have proved to be keys to survival for the Santora "team" of Midge, now 65, daughter Michelle and son Mark. Four years after its inception, Santora Sales on Bartlett Street is a successful operation -- and growing.

The Santora women soon discovered that female ownership allows them status as a minority-owned business. When the owner of a woman-owned or minority-owned small business registers as such at City Hall, he or she is listed in a directory which is distributed and used by such corporations as Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed, PG&E, Pacific Bell and the U.S. Navy. These and dozens of other large corporations and government agencies are required by law to spend a certain amount of money each year on minority- owned businesses.

In order to benefit from the Small Business Set-Aside funding, as it is known, at least 50%minorities and/or women must be actively running a small business. Santora Sales, which is in Midge Santora's name, has received many bids as a result of this program. Although the necessary competitive pricing resulting from this program reduces the profit margin for small business, the exposure, contacts and capacity to larger buying are well worth it, concludes Michelle.

Michelle can only think of one other woman-owned building and maintenance supply in the Bay Area. Most are either corporations or owned by men. "It's just not considered a woman's line of work," says Michelle. This attitude, along with assumptions many men make about women in business, i.c., that women can be taken advantage of in business, have added an extra element of challenge for Midge and her daughter. Yet they have stood their ground. In four years they have had only a few incidents of "people stiffing us." One such client is being taken to small claims court by the Santoras.

The Santoras are also simply honest business women. They are cautious in the way they do their buying, they don't "play dirty pool", and Midge is an appreciative boss. Michelle credits her mother's boundless faith for this "honest" approach.

Not only has the mother-daughter-son team survived the first years of a new business, but they are growing. Once renters of 33 Bartlett Street, they now own the building. The staff has grown from 4 to 9, and they hope to hire more.

For years, Midge Santora worked at the "family business", not as an official employee with individual paycheeks and social security benefits, but as the boss' wife. Meanwhile, she raised three children and kept house. Let it be celebrated that, in 1988, Midge Santora is enjoying success and receiving credit -- in her own name.

HAPPENINGS

Old Wives' Tales bookstore on Valencia Street is hosting women writers and editors of various ethnic backgrounds to read and discuss their works this month.

The Thursday, March 10th event features Elaine Hall and Ahava Hopps Brooke. Elaine is a Native American (Creek) poet, playwright and fiction writer published in "A Gathering of Spirit". Ahava is an Irish-American poet who writes about "the three s'es" -- spirituality, surreality and sex.

Dr. Paula Gunn Allen, professor of Native American studies at U.C. Berkeley will read from her new book of poems, "Wyrds", on Thursday, March 17th.

Old Wives" Tales welcomes Juanita Ramos, editor of "Companeras: Latina Lesbians" on Tuesday, March 22nd. "Campaneras" is a collection of poems, stories, oral histories and political theory by Latina lesbians living in the U.S. and Latin America.

Finally, the bookstore invites one and all to join San Francisco author Kittredge Cherry on Thursday, March 24 for a reading and discussion of her first book, "Womansword: What Japanese Words Say About Women". Cherry, who writes for "Mother Jones" and "Newsweek" magazines, spent three years in Japan researching the book.

All events are at 7:30 PM at Old Wives'Tales on 1009 Valencia Street, 821-4675.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Day on March 8. here are some ways to mark the event:

There will be an IWD demonstration on Saturday, March 5 to support "our sisters" in prisons and to protest the treatment of women political prisoners here and abroad. Demonstrators will gather at San Francisco's Garfield Park (25th and Harrison) and also at the Berkeley Ashby BART station (Eastside; not flea market) at 11:30 AM to board car caravans and travel to the Plcasanton Federal Prison, where there will be a rally at 2 PM to celebrate women's resistance. Those interested in the rally and educational follow-up may contact Emily Rosen at 420-7939.

On Friday, March 11, the Bay Area Women's Delegation will report on the first Women's Conference for Peace in San Salvador, El Salvador. Delegates and attendees will discuss women's organizing in the popular movement and conditions of life in the urban communities in El Salvador. Videos and slides will also be shown. The event will be held at the San Francisco Women's Building at 3543 18th Street at 7:30 PM.

Also at the Women's Building this month will be a celebration of Women's Activism and Forward Looking Strategies. A film showing of "You've Gotta Move -- soties of change in the South" will be followed by a reception honoring the activism and visions of many Bay Area women's organizations. The event, which takes place Saturday, March 19th from 4 to 6 PM, is co-sponsored by the Alliance Against Women's Oppression and the Women's Building. Those interested in childcare may make reservations by calling

The Women's Employment is a nonprofit career counseling program for all women. Call 225-1252 for information.

Once again, I invite comments and suggestions for this column, which is meant to be a women's place, podium and scrapbook! Just call Betsy at 552-5981. A happy and inspiring International Women's Day to you all!

VACANCY CONTROL

- by Brian Doohan

As San Francisco's renter-advocacy groups struggle towards a legislative or initiative campaign for vacancy control... limits placed upon the amount of rent increases allowable when one tenant leaves and another takes their place (see last month's News)... local officials have responded with contempt and anger at a Federal proposal to line the pockets of the greedy at the expense of the needy.

A draft of the 1988 federal budget, as reported in the New York Times (1/8/88), called for elimination of Federal housing rehabilitation payments to cities with rent control laws. The proposal would not require approval by Congress, but Congress could pass legislation to block the change. The News contacted Rep. Nancy Pelosi in Washington, who stated she would oppose this new manifestation of Reagonomics if it came before the House Finance Committee, of which she is a member.

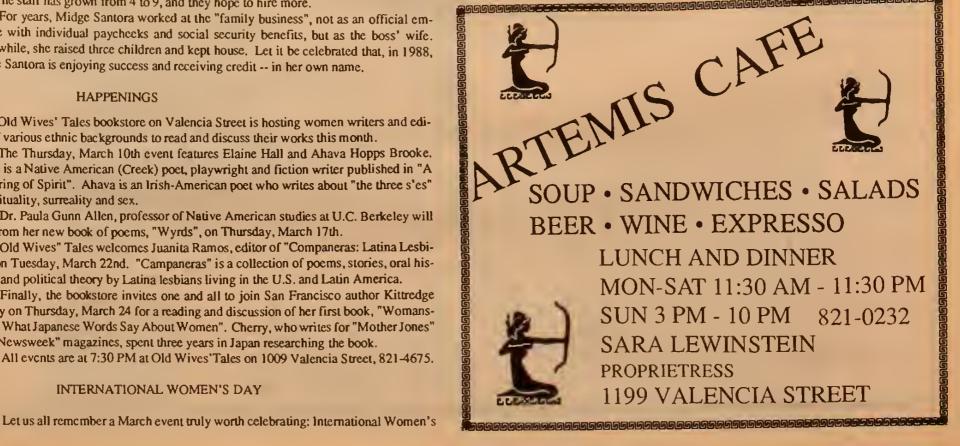
Most of the opposition has come from New York, which like San Francisco has rent controls. "If there were no rent control, most people in New York City could not afford the apartments they live in," said one official there.

Neither daily San Francisco newspaper reported the scheme and it leaked out through the Oakland Tribune, the Communist daily paper and a plea by right-wing Chronicle columnist Abe Mellinkoff for Agnos to repeal rent controls and collect the \$1.7 million bounty from our Stepford President. "The president's budget office holds - and all the best economists agree - that rent control eventually reduces the supply of housing."

Agnos' press secretary had a one word response, "Absurd!" And the new Mayor reiterated his support of Vacancy Control before a hostile Chamber of Commerce.

"Now some of our biggest businesses say that high housing prices are dampening interest from top-level talent they would like to recruit and relocate here," he told the businessmen, emphasizing the fact that 87 percent of San Franciscans can't afford to buy a home. Agnos, elected as a champion of the poor and the middle class, may have a special interest in passing strong vacancy control legislation inasmuch as his mushrooming deficit inheritancy will deep-six many of the social programs promised these people in his book "Getting Things Done".

It is still too early to tell whether the corporate sector will loosen or break their longstanding ties with the real-estate speculators. Hitherto, business... both that which produces goods and services and the parasitic sector... has maintained a united front against the demands of labor and government regulation. An exodus of productive enterprise due to continued housing inaffordability may have the effect of convincing homeowners, especially in the western part of the city, that vacancy control is in their interests.



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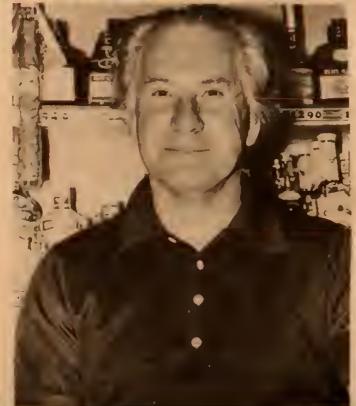
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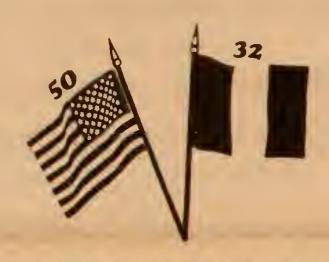
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BLACK FIREFIGHTERS T



Nobert DemmonsPresident of the San Francisco Black Firefighters Association

In 1982 the house I was living in on Shotwell Street caught fire. I was relived that I lived in a neighborhood where the firemen could get to the scene in a jiffy. Like most people, I had maintained a good-fellow opinion of the die-hard and brave firefighter. My own father was volunteer fireman in the little town where I grew up and I recall him running out when the alarm sounded and recall the hot stories of the barn burnings and danger in the line of duty. That was one scenario. But just like an idealized childhood fantasy must change, so has my perspective on the phenomenal firestopper. As I watched the smoke wallow out of my room that contained all my possessions, I began to feel like the victim of the aggression of the firemasters. I watched them chop away at my door and break windows on my bed and listened to their threats to have me arrested as they disregarded my rights.

So, I'm not the only one with a beef with the macho (i.e. insensitive, dominating



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A COMPLIMENTARY BEVERAGE





S TAKE THE HOT SEAT

supremaeist) individuals of the largely white, largely male department which I pay to protect me and my property. Minority members of our community, and I use the term figuratively to include women and people of ecior (who together are certainly not the minority in the city) have been harassed and denied fairness in hiring and in promotions for over two decades. It's a white boy's club, the Fire Department, and currently the City is faced with investigation, humiliation and will need to adapt hiring procedures to include women and people of color. But these actions are really the least concession. After all, this is 1988 and, supposedly, San Francisco is a "liberal" city. But the racism is deep and firefighters and the "sellout" Union 798 have made it hard for progress to be made toward racial equity and fair practices.

The All People's Congress, a local grassroots political organization on Mission Street lead a discussion, last month, with the spokesperson for the Black Firefighter's Association of San Francisco, Robert L. Demmons. Bob is soft-spoken in his delivery and maintains a jovial exterior, but you know the man has seen his share of conflict, swimming upstream in a City department with the general tide going strongly the other way.

When Bob first was settling down with his wife and looking for an apartment to rent, he was told by the realtors of the apartment complex that "sure there are a lot of units, come on over." When Bob and his wife showed up, and the manager saw their color, all of a sudden there were no units left. Mind you, besides this being rude and inhumane, it is illegal. At that time, Bob didn't want the hassle to fight this, but now admits that it was a mistake not to. "I don't get the least (incidence of illegal discrimination) get by if I can help it."

Bob's organization has been the safety net for men and women of color as well as white women who have been marginalized and misrepresented by the union to which they paid dues and which has, in several instances, gone against them. Mayor Feinstein actually made a deal with the head of the Union to stop court proceedings brought forth by the Black Firefighters which were charging discrimination on the testing criteria in order to save her embarrassment and impede progress in hiring more people of color to the force. There are other examples of the union failing to defend Black firefighters' rights which have led to their unfair suspension.

A Black firefighter was suspended when he refused to accept a substitute assignment in a firehouse that was known to be actively white supremacist. In this firehouse, there was a confederate flag and, on the ceiling in the dorm, a picture of a Black South African getting his head blown off. Do I want these folks coming into my classrooms to

he

talk to my Mission students about safety? My image of the benevolent Mr. nice guy was blown up as I listened to Bob Demmons talk.

"They used to put feecs in our boots and harass us at mealtime, spilling our food on the floor..." Mr. Demmons says that some of these guys are 4th generation firemen and that there is a lot of cronyism and nepotism that goes on. Even though it may be a few guys directly doing the monkey business, the rest will find it amusing and will never call it into question. It is just the way they act.

The Black Firefighters charge that testing procedures and materials have contributed to the fact that, out of 1,500 available positions on the force, only 80 are held by Blacks, 40 by American Indians and Asians, 90 by Hispanics and about 20 by women. Out of 44 chiefs, only 4 are Hispanics. Last time the tests were given for hiring on as firefighter, 600 women applied and they failed all but 6, but then retracted (due to the efforts of the Black Firefighters) and offered to hire up to 20 if they could pass a second test. Women, no matter what their color, are grateful to the existence of the Black Firefighters' Association. The current demands being brought forth to Federal judges in a consent decree issued by the Black Firefighters' Association include actions that would encourage and aid in the appointment of women to the force.

A big part of the work involves outreach to the youth. Bob feels it is important to lower the age for hiring on as firefighter from 21 to 18. "By the time some of our youth are 21, it is too late." Bob goes into the schools and talks with youth and encourages them to give it a try. He is teaching them to dare to break ground and also that the struggles against racisin, even in San Francisco, are not over. "I'm more afraid of dying a spiritual death than a physical death." It is this fearlessness and conviction that will earry Bob, and the future generation of "minority" (soon to be majority) firefighters on.

Youth interested in contacting the Fire Department please call Rod Bennett, community relations, 861-8000.

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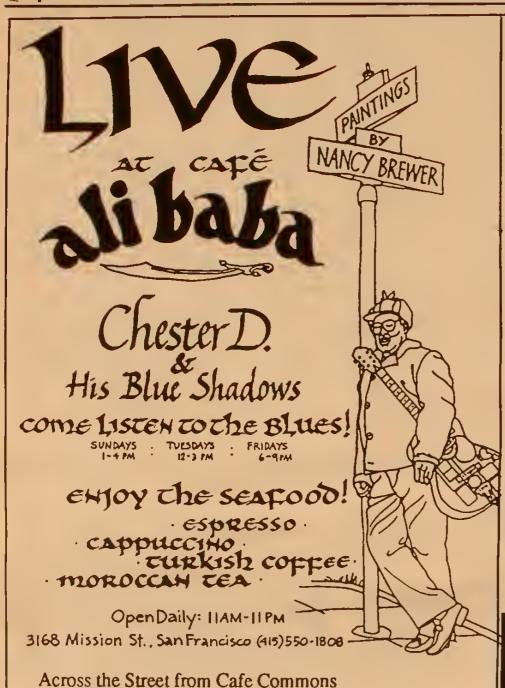
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Calendar of Events

March

6 Salvadoran Fun and Games sponsored by CODICES (the Cultural Documentation and Investigation Center of El Salvador). 362 Capp Street, 2 - 9 PM. Salvadoran food, music, dance. FREE!

6 Karen Thompson, advocate for the right to association in a case involving the civil rights of disabled lesbian couples will speak at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street at 7:30 PM. Information: 843-2120. Also 8th at Walt Whitman Book Shop, 2319 Market.

6 American Indian East-West Run Benefit at Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission. 8 PM, \$10 donation. 648-6611.

6 International Women's Day Forum Radical Women speak out on the Palestinian struggle. 4 PM, \$2.00 donation, 6:30 PM dinner \$5.50. 523A Valencia at 16th, 844-1278

7 Anarchist Baseball Bay Arca Theatresports challenges I Fratelli Bologna at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, 824-8220. 8 PM, Admission \$8. Other games against opponents to be named later March 14th and 21st.

8 Pathways to English Workshop for volunteers working with San Francisco public school students. Raoul Wallenberg High School, 40 Vega Street, 864-4224. 8:30 AM.

8 The Celluloid Closet Gay film scholar Vito Russo at Modern Times, 968 Valencia, 282-9246. 7:30 PM. Free.

8 Being Gay and Getting Older Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders presents a forum at Operation Concern, 1853 Market, between 1 and 2:30 PM. (626-7000).

8 Jesse Jackson's Super Tuesday Party Watch election results on a Giant Screen TV. Refreshments, \$5.00 donation. 1 St. Francis Place, near 3rd and Folsom. Information:

9 Oracle a new dance work by Contraband at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida Street through the 13th. 621-7797 for times and admission prices.

10 Lawyers' Open House at 50 Fell Street, 7 PM. Sponsored by New College. 863-



MARY ALICE FRY as Lily Malone and MIKE BECK as Spike Healy tangle in the footloose Western dream musical, CACTUS. Featuring a large cast of singers, dancers and actors under the direction of award-winning musical director, CANDACE NATVIG, this action- packed live show will tcam-up for a double-bill with the John Wayne movie "THE SEARCHERS" at the YORK THEATER, Friday, March 18 at 7:30 PM. CACTUS will also be shown Friday and Saturday, March 11th and 12th at 8:30 PM at the Julian Theatre, New College, 777 Valencia. All proceeds will support the tour of CACTUS with Bread & Roses, the sponsor of live, free entertainment in over 40 Bay Area institutions. Call Footloose: 648-2310.

12 Left Coast Cabaret celebrates International Women's Day with drama, poetry and music. 50 Fell Street, 8 PM. \$5 donation benefits WOMAN Inc. Information: 431-7980.

12 Tribute tn Karen Carpenter Cinema of the Anorexic at A.T.A. (see 5th).

13 Free Beethoven, Dvorak and some other people by the San Francisco Recreation Symphony. 544 Capp Street, 2 PM. Sponsored by S.F. Community Music Center, 647-6015.

13 Under the Gun a film on democracy in Guatemala at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street. 7 PM, \$5 donation, 835-0810.

15 Witness for Peace activist Judith McDaniels discusses her capture by the Contras at Modern Times (see 8th). \$2.00.

17 Energy With Crystals 8 week course begins at Cerridwen's Touch, 803 Valencia, 7-10 PM. Tuition \$90.00, 647-3819.

18 Reception for painter John Fitzmaurice at Dolores Street Clay Studios, 333 Dolores, 5:30 PM. Exhibition through 4/4.

18 Another Art Reception at La Raza Graphics, 938 Valencia for Alejandro Romero. 5 - 8 PM, exhibition through 4/30.

19 Eostre Ritual at Cerridwen's Touch (see 17th) bring flowers, boiled eggs, \$7-10 admission. Reservations suggested.

19 Welfare Cheats ex-Chuck Berry/Bo Diddley bandmembers in an evening of musical satire. Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia at 23rd, 8 PM. \$4-7 sliding scale admission, 431-

19 Dangerous Females like the Yeastie Girls, Frightwig and Wiennie Roast at Klub Komotion. 9 PM, see 5th.

19 Teachers' Brigade to Nicaragua fundraising dance at the Capp Street Center, 362 Capp between 18th and 19th, 8 PM. Afro-Caribbean rhythms. \$3-5 donation. 863-3778.

20 Salvadoran Teachers' Run 9 AM at the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park. \$12 registration, various distances, age and sex divisions. Sponsored by Cosandes, 861-2121.

22 One on One workshop for public school volunteer tutors. 8:30 AM, Lawton School, 1570 31st Avenue. Also 22nd at Cobb School, 2725 California. Information: 864-4224.

23 A Human Equation premieres at Intersection,766 Valencia, in a special benefit for Mobilization Against AIDS. \$15 includes reception. Reservations 563-1226. The play by Kenny Fries and directed by Deborah LaVine continues through April 9.

24 The God of Ecstasy a book party for Arthur Evans, historian of the ancient Greck good of wine, women, men and theater at Modern Times (see 8th). Dionysian costumes encouraged!

25 Live Jazz Meets Dance collaboration between choreography and music at In Flight, 333 Dolores. 8 PM, \$8. Also 26th.

26 Entranced Shamans Venezualan aboriginals dispatch evil spirits and Appalachian Pentecostals drink strychnine and handle snakes in films at A.T.A. (see 5th).

26 Free Opera scenes and arias from Siegfried, Tristan and Isolde and others, 8 PM at SF Community Music Center (see 13th).

27 Quacks a musical play for children presented by Lilliput Players at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 2 PM, adults \$5, children \$3. Information: 635-5434.

27 The Goddess and Her Lover seminar to realize the Goddess and the Horned God, I PM, Cerridwen's Touch (see 17th). \$20 pre-registered (647-3819), \$25 at the door.

27 Bill Wolf's "Crucifiction" opening reception for his Easter installation at AAA Gallery, 233 14th Street. Exhibition 3/23 through 4/3, special Good Friday showing. 861-8180.



SUNDAY MARCH 27, the Lilliput Players perform in "Quacks", a musical play for children based on Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid". 2:00 PM at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. Adults \$5.00, Children \$3.00. Reception following. For info, call 635-5434.

28 Yoni: Women Loving Women lesbian erotic readings by Sandy Boucher, Nisa Donnelly, Stephanic Henderson and Mary Nordseth, 7:30 PM at Modern Times (see 8th). Free!

30 Poetry and Performance by Louis and Pablo Cuneo and Adam Cornford. 8 PM, Komotion (see 5th).

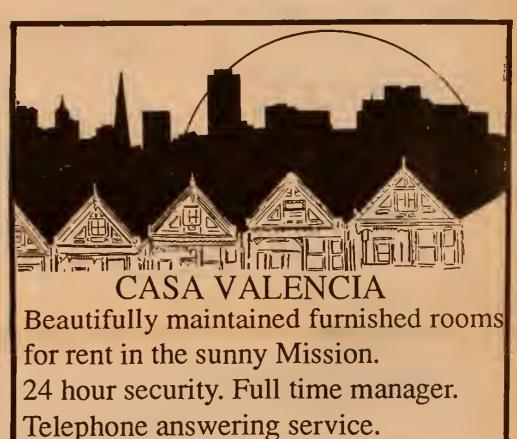
30 More Poetry read by John Gilgun, Linda Serrato and Elizabeth Newman at Manzanita Books, 3686 20th at Guerrero. 8 PM, \$2 admission. Information: 648-0957.

31 Cinco de Mayo King/Queen Deadline single Latino men and women 15-21 are invited to be candidates (call MECA, 826-1401 for entry forms). Additional contest for seniors and children from 6 to 10.

ONGOING

Open poetry, prose, music readings every Wednesday at Valencia Books, 524 Valencia between 16th and 17th. Call 665-0219 to participate (or to find out what time readings begin!).





Laundry and day rooms.

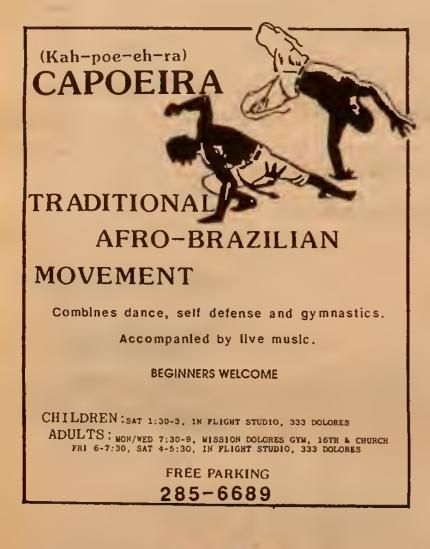
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EXCITING NEW SFAAHP HERBAL TREATMENT PROGRAM BEGINS

- by Misha Cohen, O.M.D., C.A.

On February 20 and 21, a new chapter in the treatment of AIDS through Chinese Herbal Medicine formally began. The San Francisco AIDS alternative Healing Project along with Quan Yin Acupuncture and Herb Center began a new herbal treatment program for people with chronic viral illnesses. This project is called the SFAAHP Herbal Treatment Program.

Thirty people are participants in this new project. All the participants have committed themselves to a six-month herbal treatment program which has been designed by two leading Chinese doctors from the San Francisco Sister City of Shanghai. The Brion Herb Corporation has very graciously donated all of the herbs for this program for six months, and are paying the expenses of the two Chinese doctors in order to advance the understanding of Chinese Medicine among Westerners. They are also donating several thousand dollars to help those who cannot afford to pay for their own lab work and who do not have insurance coverage for lab tests.

This project is a cooperative project among the Chinese herbal doctors, Dr. Zhang and Dr. Chen, who have over thirty five years of experience collectively, Dr. Subhuti Dharmananda, a leading herbalist in the United States and Dr. Misha Cohen of the SFAAHP and Quan Yin.

The participants include several people diagnosed with AIDS/ARC, some who are taking AZT and some who are members of the Comprehensive Program for People Diagnosed with AIDS/ARC sponsored by the SFAAHP, several people who are HIV-positive and who are healthy, and several women diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome or Chronic Epstein-Barr Virus.

While this project is a treatment program, it will be strictly monitored through labwork which is standardized and is given at zero, three and six months. At the end, there will be a greater understanding of which direction to go for further treatment protocols.

There will also be educational aspects of this Herbal Treatment Program, with many of the donors and cooperating herbalists providing seminars to the participants for no fee. Other seminars will be open to the public as the project progresses.

For more information on programs of the San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project or if you would like to help out, please call the SFAAHP at 558-9292.



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ARTHRITIS: A CASE STUDY



- by Sally McMullen, C.A

Patient: A 39 year old woman who had never had acupuncture or Chinese herbs before.

FIRST VISIT

Signs/Symptoms: Chief complaint - numbness and stiffness in neck, elbows, wrists, fingers, knees; especially suiff on waking up in the AM; difficulty in walking due to stiffness and pain. Miscellancous - fatigue, loss of sleep due to joint discomfort, depression... under a lot of stress... feels she is "coming down with a cold.

Diagnosis: Through taking patient's complete medical history, I learn that she has been having jnint pain for the past four years. After asking her more questions, checking her blood pressure, taking her pulses, etc., I diagnose her as having "Wind Chill Numbness" (other wise known in Western medicine as arthritis) which has blocked the circulation of energy ("Qi") and blood. Her pulses and other symptoms confirm that she is also coming down with a cold.

Treatment Principle: Relieve the "Surface" symptoms (i.e. the common cold). Open the Channels to spread the "Qi" and Blood.

Treatment: Use acupuncture to "relieve the body surface" (pores) in order to treat the cold, and "Open the Channels" in order to treat the arthritis. Prescribe Chinese herbal pills for the common cold.

SECOND VISIT

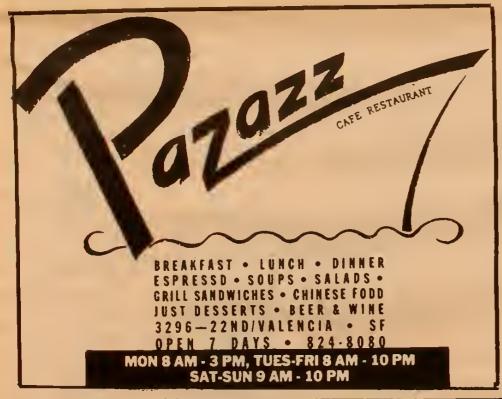
Signs/Symptoms:

Common cold - gone. She believes CHinese herbal pills helped. Joint pain - decreased.

Sleep - is more sound because pain has decreased.

Exercise - able to exercise more; feels more energetic

Treatment: Continue acupuncture for painful joints. Preseribe various Chinese herbs -- which are browed into a tea. Her prescription is a combination of two classical Chinese herbal formulas. The formulas were adjusted by me to fit the needs of this specific patient. The particular herbs used function to stop pain, nourish the blood, strengthen the bones and tendons, release spasms, pacify the spirit (for a good night's sleep), and to increase energy.



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THIRD VISIT

Signs/Symptoms:

Knee pain - not as sharp as before, but still stiff on waking

Other joints- feel better

Upper arm - the most painful spot this visit

Exercise - increasing

Treatment:

Continue acupuncture and Chinese herbs. Adjust acupuneture points to concentrate mainly on the painful upper arm.

FOURTH VISIT

Signs/Symptoms:

Joints - looser in the mornings.

Neck - stiff off and on.

Exercise - jogging now!

Miscellancous - Whole body not feeling chilled -- as it generally had felt before treatments started.

Treatment:

Adjust acupuncture points to concentrate on the neck pain. Continue herbs.

FIFTH VISIT

Signs/Symptoms:

Knee - stiffness reduced; negligible!

Neck - fine.

Fingers - no discomfort.

Wrists - no discomfort.

Upper arm - fine.

Elbows - no discomfort.

Treatment: Acupuncture: Since patient was not having any pain or numbness, we focused on unblocking other areas in order to increase her energy. Herbs: Patient finished 3 bags of herbs thus far in her treatment; wants 2 more bags for reinforcement.

SIXTH VISIT

Signs/Symptoms:

Arthritis - Still NO SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF ARTHRITIS!

Sleep - sound.

Mental state - "On an even keel."

General - Fcels more relaxed and has a "smoother energy" flow.

SUMMARY

Since this patient had experienced joint pain and stiffness for four years prior to beginning these treatments, I had estimated that she would need a longer program of treatments than the six visits mentioned above in order for her to have significant improvement. I was very pleased, therefore, that she did so well in only six treatments and that she had to use only five bags of herbal tea.

I recommended that she have follow-up treatments as needed. Three months later she had some twinges of discomfort and had one follow-up. A month after that she had a second follow-up. It is now ten months since her first treatment, and she is still going

Not every patient responds as quickly or as completely to Traditional Chinese Medicine as this patient did. However, this case gives one an idea as to the possibilities for treatment of chronic problems through acupuncture and Chinese herbs.

It was important to the outcome of this case that the patient follow through with the course of treatments. One reason why I think this patient followed through was because of the prior success of Traditional Chinese Medicine in her family. (I had successfully treated her mother for sciatica.) And, finally, because the patient felt a little better after each treatment and after taking her herbs, she became motivated to continue the program until her discomfort and pain were gone.

Painful joints, such as the case presented above, are seen in rheumatic fever, rheumatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and gout. Acupuncture is relatively effective in treating these conditions.

[If you have any questions, you may reach Ms. McMullen at 550-7732.]

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Neighbors by Lynn Johnson STARHAWK Photo credit: Roy King HONORING THE EARTH

Starhawk: She's one of our neighbors, and within the North Mission some know her as famous and highly respected, some have never heard of her, and some only refer to her sneeringly as, "that witch!"

Reclaiming: It's an organization largely centered in the neighborhood and generally known, if at all, as a spiritual/teaching collective, some group connected with Starhawk, or "that bunch of witches!"

Who is Starhawk? What is Reclaiming? What's the connection?

Starhawk's publicity advances usually run something like, "A peace activist and leader in the feminist spirituality movement in the U.S. and Europe, Starhawk is the author of the bestselling The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Gnddess (Harper and Row, 1979) and Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex and Politics (Beacon, 1982). She teaches at several San Francisco Bay Area colleges and travels widely, lecturing and giving workshops. She also works with the Reclaiming collective in San Francisco, which offers classes, workshops and public rituals in the Old Religion of the Goddess, also known a Witchcraft." Now she's just had a third book published, Truth or Dare: Encounters with Power, Authority and Mystery (Harper & Row, 1987). In Truth or Dare, Starhawk tells more about herself when she lists her qualifications to discuss "Building Alliances Across the Barriers of Difference". In this section she mentions "As a woman, a Jew, a white-skinned person, an out-of-the-broom-closet Witch, a bisexual, a highly educated person who has experienced varying economic circumstances, I feel I know something about both prejudice and privilege." Starhawk knows a lot about many things through devoted experimentation, scholarly research and

careful thinking, and she shares her knowledge in an articulate and non-demeaning manner. She also does a lot of working-together to catalyze the changes she wants to see in the world

Among political activists, witches and neo-pagans, Starhawk's name is widely and often almost reverentially known. Yet when she enters or leads a group her visage seems only shy and alert. Her voice is not loud but well-listened to. In a group discussion she waits for others to speak and listens carefully to each even as her quick-darting eyes survey every member of the assemblage and some deeper ea seems to listen to the mood of the group and its environment. She's usually in jeans with a loose-fitting shirt-of-color, a string of beads, scrubbed face, long bush brushed curls, and a functional blue down jacket. As likely as not her silver-shiny doumbek drum hangs on a bright woven strap from her right shoulder. Not unusual is a look of impatience that seems to come from a knowledge of how much still has to be done.

She's been a witch for nineteen years and she's proud of her religion just as she's proud of her Jewish roots, but her primary fame as a witch seems to get in her way sometimes. Often, admirers only want to hear about witchcraft from her or why she's a witch while many others ignore or discount her work and writing because she's a witch. "Witch" is a highly charged title and too few take the time to find out what it means to a particular witch. For Starhawk, witchcraft is a highly charged title and too few take the time to find out what it means to a particular witch. For Starhawk, witchcraft is what's left of the old Goddess religion, it has always included men and women, and its most basic belief is the sacredness of the earth and each of her inhabitants: "It's a spirituality that's rooted in the earth, in nature and in human beings; NOT outside all this. We don't know what it's all about and we never will. We (witches) mistrust spiritual structures and systems that tell us what to believe or what to do."

Starting from this basic reverence for the earth and its inhabitants, Starhawk and members of her covens began to build their own non-hierarchical system of witchcraft back in the late seventies. Many of them came from experiences in the feminist movement to an interest in the old Goddess religion and began together to explore and to build theories from their own and others' experiences. Starhawk's first book, The Spiral Dance tells some of these stories and provides information and ereative sparks that have made it one of the most popular introductory texts to modern witchcraft.

In Dreaming the Dark, she gives a brief description: "The Old Religion -- eall it Witchcraft, Wieca, the Craft or, with a slightly broader definition, Paganism or New Paganism -- is both old and newly invented. Its roots go back to the pre-Judeo- Christian tribal religions of the West, and it is akin in spirit, form and practice to Native American and African religions. Its myths and symbols draw from the woman-valuing, matristic, Goddess-centered cultures that underly the beginnings of civilization. It is not a religion with a dogma, a doctrine or a sacred book; it is a religion of experience, of ritual, of practices that change consciousness and awaken power-from-within. Beneath all, it is a religion of connection with the Goddess, who is immanent in nature, in human beings, in relationships. Because the Goddess is here. She is eternally inspirational. And so Witchcraft is eternally reinvented, changing, growing, alive."

Dreaming the Dark "is a book about bringing together the spiritual and the political." Political action became an integral part of Starhawk's life in the summer of 1981 when she banded with others from the pagan community to form Matrix, an affinity group offering the Abalone Alliance their knowledge of ritual and group energy to the blockade of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Starhawk's non-violent political actions and learnings since have included working in affinity groups with the Livermore Action Group, the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common, non-violent protests at Lockheed in Santa Cruz, the Lesbian-Gay Freedom March in Washington, D.C., rituals for an end to Contra-aid and her own lectures and workshops around the country.

Her latest book, Truth or Dare, "is a book of theory and practice". After defining three basic types of power she offers very clear-cut suggestions for developing power-



from-within and power-with, which she considers constructive modes of power, the book is well-written interweaving poetry, stories, history, theory, meditations, rituals and exercises to inspire the reader's own unfolding. Within this framework she builds a "psychology of liberation" (Starhawk is also a therapist with an advanced degree from Antioch University West) then suggests down-to-earth paths towards community and action. Throughout her writings and her discussions, Starhawk stresses the importance of enjoying our lives on this planet and having lots of fun in all that we do.

Currently Starhawk is travelling a lot, promoting the new book she wrote last year. She's working more on building alliances between women of color and white women, she's participating more in Green politics and she's planning to participate in protest actions at a Nevada nuclear test site. Next year, she hopes to stay put for a while in San Francisco, in California which she locally confesses to believing "the only place for any sensible person to live." Her room in the collective household seems to have an orange glow from aged paint sometimes visible behind the sofa heaped with tossed clothes and above oddly turned chairs stacked with books and folders and sheaves of notes and more heaps of clothes ("I haven't sorted out from my last trip yet.") Just off-center there is one small cleared space that seems almost reverent in its neatness -- a chair, a table, a word processor and a printer. What's she working on now? "Futuristic fiction, and it's the first time the writing has been really enjoyable."

Reclaiming began in 1980. It is a feminist witchcraft collective that grew out of a coven that Starhawk was in and she is the only remaining original member, but the collective has always been based on equality and Starhawk has no more influence than any other member. Reclaiming teaches, demonstrates and perpetuates the spiritual aspects of the religion of the Goddess. It teaches people how to do ritual that comes out of a collective process rather than from an authority figure. It is a true anarchist organization ruled by consensus with only the minimum of organization to complete what needs to be done. A large, amorphous community exists around Reclaiming, but events and actions come only from those who organize them usually working in affinity groups. In Starhawk's words, "As a cultural worker in the community, Reclaiming tries to provide networking, classes, rituals and events that help to shape and crystalize a culture that's based on the conception of the Goddess, the sacred and immanent in the earth and in human beings. This has big political ramifications." Reclaiming is composed women, men and children, straights and gays. It is mostly white with a sprinkling of blacks and hispanics.

Onc of the best-known productions by Reclaiming is their not-quite-annual Spiral Dance, a popular ritual on Halloween often held at the Women's Building. Coming up on Saturday, April 30, they're producing a ritual performance benefit for Shanti at the Women's Building. Rituals are performed throughout the year at full moons and at the turning points of the wheel of the year; many of these are open to the public.

Reclaiming classes aim to transform and empower the individual with magic as a basic component. An ecological world view and non-hierarchical community functioning are stressed. Teaching encompasses native European religious practices, witchcraft and neo-paganism. Current class-listings include Scent-making, Breath and Body for Women, Elements of Magic for Men and Women, the Light of the Full Moon, and A

Ritual Workshop for Mcn. The cost of the classes is very low on a sliding scale, and the teachers are highly qualified and experienced. Last summer Reclaiming did one-week "Witchcamps" in Santa Cruz and in Vancouver to offer their teachings to people outside San Francisco.

The best ways to find out more about Reclaiming and its activities are the Events Line (849-0877) and the Reclaiming Newsletter which is available at Rainbow General Store, the Philosopher's Stone and other local bookstores. It's an entertaining and enlightening book in itself, filled with poetry and reviews, articles, letters, recipes and schedules of classes and events.

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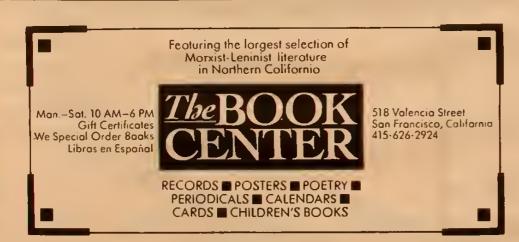
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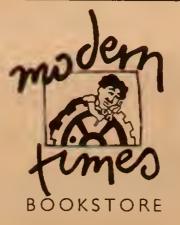
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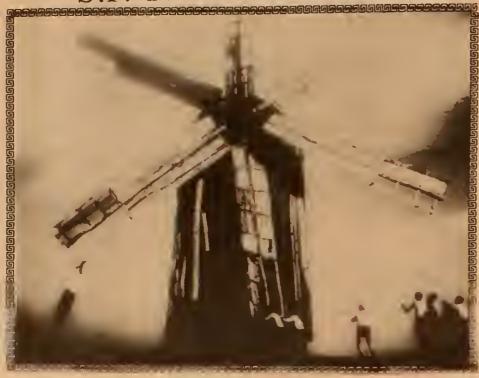


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S.F. FILM FESTIVAL



- hy Herman Muirragui

New theme this year for San Francisco Film Festival

This year's presentation of the 31st annual San Francisco International Film Festival will be varied and interesting. The major themes will be previously banned Soviet film and cinema from the Far East.

The big story is that the U.S.S.R. Filmmakers' Association is opening many closets and rescreening many banned films. It has already been dubbed "Glasnost Cincma". Among the films to be screened: "Commisar", a 1967 film by Alcksander Askoldov, a tale of Jewish life, suffering, bravery and fatalism.

Far East cinema is a sub-theme of this year's festival. Very good films are coming out of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korca and, surprisingly, a filin from Viet Nam.

From China comes "The Big Parade", "Horse Thief" and "Old Well". From Hong Kong: a good film about "life in the fast lane" called "Love Unto Waste" is recommended. Highly recommended is a film emerging from Viet Nam called "Fairytale For 17 Year Olds", called "... a gentle story about growing up amidst the reality of war... never doctrinaire or vindictive in tone... the will to love despite duress," by critic Laura Theilen. A prominent film to counter the Vietnam films emerging from Hollywood such as those of the Rambo variety.

The big disappointment is the few films from Latin America that are to be shown this year. When questioning Festival Director Pater Scarlett about the selection of Latin American films, he responded by saying "there just weren't that many good films coming out of the region".

On this account, he's just plain wrong. At the Havana Film Festival held from December 3 - 17 last year, many awards were given to outstanding films from the region, of which only one is presented in this film festival. That is a film from Chile by Patricio Guzman, "In the Name of God". It received the Second Coral Award in the Documentary category at the Havana Film Festival, perhaps the most important film festival of Latin American cinema; this fact was not mentioned in the program guide.

First prize for fiction went to "A King's Film" by Carlos Sorrin from Argentina. Second prize was Juan Jose Jusid's "Made in Argentina". Grand Coral Prize (Best Film Award) went to a Brazilian documentary, "Land for Roses" by Tete Moraes. The only Cuban film to get an award was the documentary "Young at Heart" by Octavio Gortuzar, it took a Third Coral. Let's hope that, next year, we may see these films, along with other films that will win prizes and awards in film festivals in Rio and Havana.

I recommend all the Latin American films. Although I haven't seen all the films, these are good films, many of which are not commercial, but are thought provoking and entertaining. I feel too many commercial films exploit our senses, just as commercial music and fast food like a quarter pounder with cheese, fries and a Coke corrupt your senses. We crave it, but it's not good for us, only fast and easy.

You can order Festival tickets at Bass: 762-BASS and, for information, call 931-FILM. The festival is from March 17-27, the program guide will be distributed throughout the usual cafes in the city. If you have any comment on what I've written on any of the films, please write to the North Mission News.



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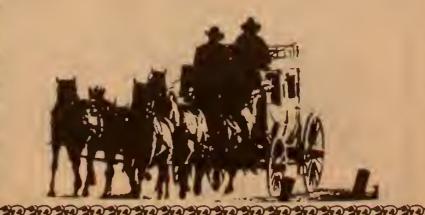
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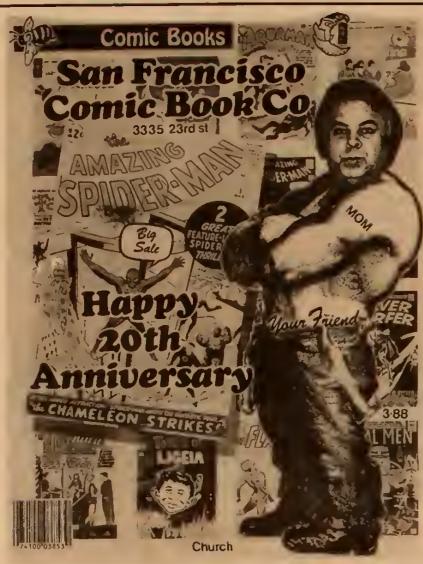
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San Francisco Comix will soon be celebrating their 20th anniversary, an astounding two decades of business at the same Mission District location. Presided over by a large and jolly grey-haired gnome named Gary, the small store is crammed with colorful comics that climb the ceiling, pack the shelves and overflow into the aisles.

Business has changed over the years. "When I started" said Gary Arlington, "the only comics available were Marvel, DC, Donald Duck and the Archies. Then the undergrounds came out. San Francisco was the center of the scene, with comics like Zap, Bijou, Feds and Heads and the Freak Brothers. It was a happening, like Haight-Ashbury."

Many of the cartoonists from that era are still living in Northern California such as Spain, S. Clay Wilson, R. Crumb and Justin Green. Ripoff Press was located in San Francisco until it recently moved to Auburn. But the underground market has faded... "It's only about 2% of what it once was," noted Gary.

DC and Marvel remain popular. "The best seller is X-Men," says Gary, "before that it was Spider Man, before that . Fantastic Four. The main market for those comics is high school and junior high kids."

A recent development in the industry are magazines catering to adults, such as "Fanographic", which includes erotica. "Comic books are growing up" says Gary. "Even DC has a new line for adults. It's controversial because comics are so accessible to kids."

There are also graphic novels, such as MAUS, which are essentially novels in cartoon form. Many of these originate in Europe, are translated into English and gradually find an American audience.

According to Gary and Tom (a long-time customer) the biggest difficulty in comics is finding good scripts. "The genre really needs to attract superior writers," Tom explained. His personal favorite was Bernic Reightson, who created the award-winning "Swamp Thing" and then dropped out of the business because publishers refused to pay him what he deserved. "Dark Night", an early Bat Man comic, was mentioned by Gary as one of his favorites.

While we talked, hypnotized customers browsed quietly, staring at the fantastic pages. I ended up doing the same, escaping for over an hour into the depths of "Weirdo" and "The New Mutants". Strongly recommended!

The store is open Monday through Saturday, from twelve to seven. The address is - by Hank Pellissier

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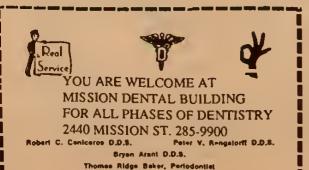
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RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

WOODWARD GARDENS

If you were to take a walk down Fourteenth Streets, between Valencia and Mission Streets, you would come upon Woodward Street. This is the only mark left by a very illustrious early citizen of San Francisco. In 1849 Robert B. Woodward was a fairly successful gold miner who brought his Mother-Lode gleanings to San Francisco and opened the "What Cheer House" on the corner of Sacramento and Leidesdorff Streets. This was a Hotel, Dining Room and Salon, for men only, and over the years, was a real money maker.

In time, Woodward longed to build a house away from the fast pace of downtown and, needing space for his rapidly growing collection of tropical birds, plants and interesting memorabilia, he settled at the edge of town on Mission Street. Around 1865 he obtained two square blocks bounded by Mission, Valencia, Thirteenth (now Duboce), and Fifteenth Streets.

At first, he would allow only lodges and other organizations, by appointment, to view this rapidly growing collection. He built, just inside the gate near Thirteenth Street, a fine museum and, to the left, a glass conservatory. On the right, backing up to Thirteenth Street, he built a large music hall and restaurant fronted by Deer Park. Next to it, toward Valencia Street, he placed a 5,000 seat pavilion. In back of the museum was an art gallery and fernery, in between which was an outdoor gymnasium. He immediately fenced the area, placing an extremely high double fence along the whole west side of the property for protection against the almost constant "Valencia Winds".

Early on he decided to admit the general public and charged two bits (25 cents) for adults. Children under ten paid one short bit (10 cents). This beautiful park became so popular that Woodward began running his own horse-drawn streetcars from downtown for a nickel a ride. Eventually, one of these horse- ears stopped at the park gate every two minutes

Every year more attractions came to Woodward's Gardens. On the south side at Fourteenth Street, an aquarium and two seal ponds were soon built and, in the center of all this, were lawns for picknicking, walks and a large fountain. A little stream ran from the fountain, easterly, into the round boat pond which was very popular. Animals started coming into Woodward's possession, so he set aside the smaller block from Fourteenth to Fifteenth Street as a menagerie. A pedestrian tunnel was dug under Fourteenth Street to connect these two fenced in blocks.

The Mcnagerie (small zoo) included a Bird and Monkey House, a Poultry House, an Eagle Aviary, a building for small animal cages, a Large Animal enclosure and cages and a large Bear Pit. A kiosk and refreshment stand was located near the tunnel entrance. (This was about where Stevenson Street is today). The animals housed here included Monkeys, Wolves, Tigers, Lions, Bears, Camels, Bulls and a wide variety of Birds. All of this caused great wonder to the people of this rough new city. The area was often compared to the fine parks of the Continent or Kew Gardens in London. Woodward's Gardens was often referred to as the Central Park of the Pacific or the Eden of the West.

Back when people worked a full six day week, Sunday was the big day in Woodward's Gardens. Excellent music was heard from the Band Platform, Vaudeville acts were seen in the pavilion and such things as Balloon Ascensions and Parachute Jumps were enjoyed by all. These were the days my father often talked about. He and my mother, even before they were married, liked to bicycle from where they lived over on Russian Hill to this wondrous place to spend the day picknicking and seeing all the attractions.

Another special day was the May Day Festival for Children. On these times, as many as 10,000 youngsters would be entertained. They would see real live Indians in warpaint, acrobats from Japan (never before brought to this country), rifle drill teams, Minstrel Shows and Rope Skipping Dancers. They even saw a Frenchman wrestle a bear and a man shot from the mouth of a cannon.

After 25 years of glory, Woodward's Gardens suffered the same sort of demise as other privately owned parks. Some very early ones are worth mentioning here: Russ Gardens at 6th and Harrison Streets, Happy Valley at Hayes and Market Streets and the Willows at 18th and Mission. The development of public parks drew pickniekers and people seeking any outdoor recreation at no cost. The 1870's saw the beginning of the layout for Golden Gate Park, which was in full swing when, in 1891, Woodward's Gardens started to fall in neglect. Robert Woodward had died in 1879 but his son, Robert Jr., had carried on in his father's tradition.

I well remember the large grave of Robert Woodward in Laurel Hill Cemetery near the corner of Presidio Avenue and California Street. It was a pretentious affair, a flat, slightly raised rectangle of marble with cement benches on each side and bordered by lawn.









Hi there. All you southern desperate pea pickers. All you grease monkies who if not for having a crescent wrench under your pillow at night don't sleep all that well. To all you victims of 16th street hookers and to you hookers who victimize them. To you acne faced punks that are subjected to the whims of alcoholic parents, fascist gym teachers at school, Pit Bullers and even some of you retired pimps and tulip growers, this one's for you. Oh yeah, I forgot. To tell all you cats and eattes who have a touch of Irish blood running through the pipes, this is mainly for you, since this being Saint Patrick's month.

Being that I'm the Master Baddster, prince of total disaster, I feel that it's my duty to inform all you about the fact that even I make Badd MISTAKES.

This Badd MISTAKE took place in Southern Ireland quite a while ago shortly after flying into Shannon airport and up into the mountains of Co. Wicklow, next to the mountains of Lugnaquilla at about 60 or so miles from Dublin.

Uncle Jimmy and Freddy were there to greet me and take me to the mountains to get acquainted with my Grandfar who 1've never met before. The only thing I knew of Bill Butter is from what 1've been told here in America.

When we left Shannon we stopped in some small town bingo hall. From what I've heard of the inestimable grandfar of my race is that he has three cardinal rules. NO GAMBLING, NO DRINKING POTEEN (190% proof that should be used for either removing rust or starting a fire with), NO CHASING AFTER COLLEENS. We broke all three. An insult to the Trinity. A Badd MISTAKE if ever there was. So we, all three of us, got drunk and decided to send this runner (runners are common in those parts of Ireland) up to my grandfar's cottage and have him send down the horse and wagon.

The little snitch ratted to my Grandfar what we were doing down there at that bingo hall with his grandson, Bill E. Badd. He spilled the beans. Badd MISTAKE! Informers have always been a waste in Irish life.

When he came back to the parlour and upon being asked what did my grandfar as to the horse and wagon say, he said "He didn't say anything". "Why didn't he?" I told your grandfar, "Because they're having a pretty swell time." When we heard that, knowing that my grandfar's rules were exposed to him in violation, we herded the little puke out into the driveway where horses are kept and he got kicked about so hard by us that his breath must have had the seent of shoe polish on it.



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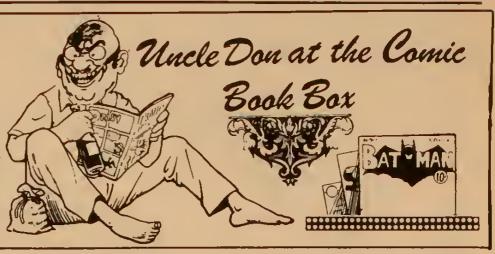
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Gone but not forgotten friends I am shocked. Our favorite program has been taken off the air by a terrible depraved bunch of bastards who worked at TV Guide and without any thought of milk of human kindness took our show off the air but I will risk my job as critic to try and get the show back for you and for you readers of fine outstanding comic books. I will try to get Dinosaucers in Star Comics one way of the other.

In fact 1 am counting on you the children and parents of this fair city and all over the country to send your letters to Die TV Prod. KBHK TV Channel 44 in San Francisco, TV Guide and to Marvel Comics Editor Tom De Falco demanding the return and birth of a new comic book.

REVIEWS

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

Unusual but wonderful. Not bad at all but the TV series and magazine could stand a little teamwork.

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Numbers 1 and 11, two perfect remakes of Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court and it's a wonderfull life the magazine is too powerful but very good.

MUPPET BABIES

Kermit and the Kermetes gross but good.

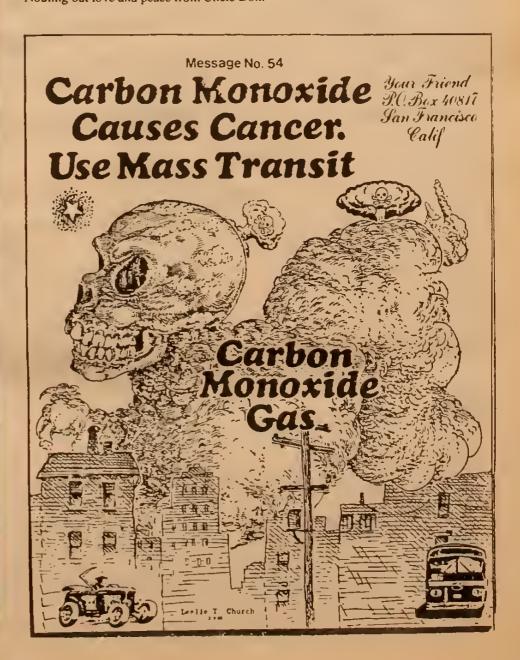
FLINSTONE KIDS

The feud between Dreamchip Gemstone and Wilma Slaghoople is not over yet by a longshot, it seems that Dreamchip accused Freddy of stealing and he must take her to the prom or she will tell the principal that Freddy the lunch money thief but it's really Rocky Ratrock who is the thief. But in a forthcoming issue I would like to see a remake of Shang Chi annual number 1 death trap for Shang Chi and calling it Death Trap Dream.

RECAP

- I. Tecnage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3084 pts.
- 2. Masters of the Universe 1936-84
- 3. Muppet Babies 2019 pts.
- 4. Flinstone Kids 4090 pts.

Picase kids ask your mom and dad to write those letters to KBHK TV 44, Dic TV Prod., to demand the stay of Dinosaucers and please ask your mom and dad to write to Marvel Comics editor Tom De Falco to please add Dinosaucers to the Star Comics Lineup. Nothing but love and peace from Uncle Don.





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